A Synopsis On

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS IN WESTERN MAHARASHTRA AND MARATHWADA REGION OF MAHARASHTRA STATE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Introduction:

Population geography has recently developed as a separate discipline of study and research. The scope of this subject is very vast. It is concerned mainly with the spatial analysis of population. It involved not only the magnitude of human population but also different characteristics growth and mobility (Ghosh 1945). According to J.I Clarke *"Population geography is concerned with demonstrating how spatial variations to the distribution composition migration and growth of population are related to spatial variation in the nature of places"*.In Population geography, the main focus of the study is the human population. The essence of population geography lay in understanding the regional differences in the people covering the earth (Trewartha, 1969).The central theme of the science of population geography is area differentiation. It is essential to understand the process of spatial organization. Population constitutes the most dynamic and the central element in such a process. Trewartha confined the scope of population geography to population in the past, distribution of population, density, migration, growth, qualities of population and their regional patterns of distribution. Population geography places greater emphasis upon maps and, therefore, man becomes the focus, the study in a more precise sense. Population geography treats the spatial and the socio- economic consequences arising from the interactions with the conditions existing in a region (Barade, 2001).

According to Melezin, population geography is the study of population distribution and productive relationships existing within various population groups, the settlement network and its fitness, usefulness and effectiveness for productive goals of society. The study of population geography is identified with the analysis of territorial groupings of settled places with emphasis upon their economic functionally. This is so because the pattern of distribution of population is basically represented by a network of settlement.

Population geography is the science that deals with the way in which the geographic character of places is formed by and in turn reacts upon, a set of population phenomena that vary within in through both space and time as they follow

their own behavioral laws, interacting with each other and with numerous non-demographic phenomena (Zelinsky,1966). Population geography studies the distribution of population very the surface of the earth along with its characteristics and its relation with geographical nature of the region (Sawant and Athavale, 1994).

Choice of the topic:

The study region has been selected for present study due to various reasons. Region has diversified relief and amount of rainfall and soil types. As being comparison of western Maharashtra and Marathwada region, it seems that Marathwada region lags behind in regional and economical development to the western Maharashtra .Due to the irrigation and agricultural development in western Maharashtra, the population characteristics like population growth, literacy rate , sex ratio has different to Marathwada region. In Maharashtra, the Western Maharashtra region is famous for sugar industry development and cash crop cultivation due to irrigation facility development since last 30 years. Similarly the human resource development is better in western Maharashtra region having engaged in agricultural and its allied activities. Marathwada region of Maharashtra shows high variability of rainfall and its cultivation is totally depends upon the gamble of monsoon.Hence the demographic characteristics of population growth, literacy rate, gender-wise literacy, occupational population structure is different in both study regions. Due to these different demographic characteristics, the regional development is also different. An attempt is made to focus the relationship in socio-economic and regional development to population characteristics.

Study Area:

The Maharashtra State is administratively divided into six divisions, viz. Konkan, Nasik, Pune, Amravati, Nagpur and Aurangabad (Marathwada).

The Western Maharashtra region is located in Maharashtra state extends between 15º 45" North to 19º 24" North latitudes and 73º 19"East to 76º15"East longitudes. It is bounded by Konkan region from west sides, Nagpur region from North side, Marathwadha region from Northeast side, Karnataka state from south &southeast side. It covers an area of 57,235 Km². In the west the average height 900 meters above sea level, central part of the region 600 meters height; eastern portion descends 450 to 600 meters height. Bhima and Krishna is Master river system in the

region of about with comprise five district Pune, Sangali, Satara, Kolhapur, Solapur and 58 tahsils. In this Western Maharashtra region, Kolhapur & Satara shows high rainfall, Pune & Sangali district shows medium to high rainfall while Solapur shows low rainfall. The temperature is high in summer that exceeds more than 39 °C to 42° C and in winter it come down to 10° C to 14 ° C. As per 2011 census, total population of Western Maharashtra region was 2,34,49,049 persons in which about 1,20,79,185 male persons while about 1,13,69,864 female persons and density 357 per sq km person as per 2011 census. The literacy rate was 82.72% in which male literacy was 88.91% and female literacy was about 76.20%. Total net irrigated area to total net sown area was 30.78% in the region in 2011.

The Aurangabad division is known as Marathwada which was formerly a part of Hyderabad state. This Marathwada region lies in the upper Godavari basin, which extends from 17°35" North latitude to 20°40" North latitude and from 74° 40"East longitude to 78° 19" east longitude. Its shape is roughly triangular, East-West maximum extent is about 394 Kilometers and north-south extent is about330 Kilometers. It bounded by Nashik region from Northwest & west side, Amravati region from North side,Western Maharashtra from Southwest side, Karnataka & Telangana state from southeast and south side and Telangana from east side. It has a total area about 64,302 Km². Marathwadha is a part of Deccan plateau with general slope in south-east direction from Sahyadris and has many features in common with upland districts of Deccan plateau. Marathwadha region has a general elevation of about 500 meters above these level, highest and lowest level being 958 meters in *Satmala* range and 366 meters above sea level. There are three important river basins in region viz. Godavari basin, Manjra and Purna basin. The climate of the Marathwadha region is generally dry except the during the south-west monsoon. Entire Marathwada region is divided into three rainfall zones in which eastern region having moderate to high moderate rainfall i.e. 900 to 1000 mm' central region having assured low rainfall i.e. 700 to 900 mm rainfalls while remaining western region has scarcity zone where rainfall is below than 700 mm. As per 2011 census, the total population of Marathwadha region was 1, 87,31,872 persons in which about 96,58,962 male persons while about 90,32,910 female persons. The literacy rate was 76.42% in which male literacy was 84.94% and female literacy was about 67.38%. Total net irrigated area to total net sown area was 6.15% in the region in 2011.

Objectives:

1) To study physical and socio-economic setting of study region.
2) To compare the density, growth and distribution pattern of population of the study region.
3) To compare the literacy, occupation structure, composition of age and sex ratio of the study region.
4) To compare marital status and religion composition and urbanization.
5) To study the migration trend and its effects demographic structure in the study region.
6) To examine the concentration of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe of the study region.

Hypothesis

1) Physical determinants are influences on regional development.
2) Socio-economic aspects are influences on population characteristics.

Data Collection & Research Methodology

The present study is based on primary & secondary data obtained from government and non-government sources. This study is carried out at district level for the period for 1991 to 2011, census of India, District census handbook, Socio-economic Abstract of study region's District, Agricultural Department. The collected data were tabulated and then applied to represent in the form of graphs, pie charts, maps and diagrams. The processed data were used for mapping and computing population density, population growth, population concentration literacy and male female differential index. Concentration of urban population was shown by Lorenz Curve by using Gini's method. Besides this, choropleth method was applied for mapping. Bar diagrams and line graphs have drawn for showing temporal trends and variations of population change

Review of Literature:

Review of literature is very significant to know the related work done by earlier researcher. It provides the guidelines for further research.

1) Dr D.D Gaikwad (2014) emphasis on a demographic characteristics of Sangali district in which he traced on literacy rate, population growth, migration trends, age structure, occupation structure ; from published thesis on "A Critical analysis of Demographic Characteristics of Sangali District"

2) Dr. Parchane S.R. (2016) studied the population characteristics in Ahamadnagar district in which he emphasis on population growth, male-female literacy, sex ratio, migration trends and so on, published thesis "A Study of Population Characteristics In Ahamadnagar District".

3) Shri Shinde A.S (2015) has been studied about educational facilities and population characteristics in Akkalkot tahsil like number of schools and colleges, population growth, literacy rate, SC & ST population literacy rate , sex ratio for his Minor research project on "The study of population and Educational facilities in Akkalkot tahsil"

4) Sawant S.B. and Khan, Y.S. (1982), have studied variation in marital status in western Maharashtra. The study is based on secondary data collected from census of India. Correlation matrix of 11 variables for western Maharashtra has been prepared to analyze marital status. The study shows that proportion of married females in the reproductive period is very high. This is higher not only when compared like U.K. and Canada but is higher even than those of socially and economically very backward countries like Uganda and Iran. In areas where proportions of literates are high and where contribution made by non-agricultural sector is quite significant remarriages are common among both the sexes.

5) Pandurkar R.G. (1988), analyzed mortality patterns and trends of poliomyelitis in Maharashtra. The study is based on secondary sources of data collected from records of vital statistics Pune, M.S. The district-wise data for a period of 14 years from 1970 was used for the analysis of mortality patterns. The study shows that i) mortality rates are increasing successively every year in the state. ii) The thickly populated districts and Sangli show higher incidence. iii) Poliomyelitis is exclusively the disease of urban origin in the state. The urban average is 2 to 3 times bigger than the averages.

6) Prithvish, Nag (1989), has examined a global view of countries by their population size and growth rate and the geographical implications of the size and change. The study reveals that more developed countries have only 24.56

percent of the world's population (with a growth rate of 0.6 percent.) On the other hand, the LOC's have three times the population than that of the more developed countries and more than three times the growth rate. He also analyzed migration and geopolitical issues, population projection and geopolitical strategies in the world.

7) Yusuf, K.S. (1990) has studied population characteristics of western Maharashtra in his research work entitled "Western Maharashtra: A study in population geography". He studied the factors affecting population trend. His study includes the pattern of population distribution trend. His study includes the pattern of population distribution and density, the growth, migration, fertility, literacy, and urbanization.

8) Shrivastri, R.K. and Koshal R. (1998) have studied the trends in sex ratio and and various sex differentials of Seoni district (M.P.)

9) Gupta, M.P. and Sharma, S. (1994), have attempted to analyze immigration patterns in Madhya Pradesh. The study reveals that the percentage of in-migration in M.P. from rural areas is very high (84.43), in comparison to urban area (15.17). The influences of industrialization, urbanization and facilities of higher education on in-migration has been analyzed and found significant. The study shows that the Chattishgarh Basin and Malwa Plateau are the regions where the expectancy and actual immigration are high.

10) Shrivastri, R.K. and Koshal, R. (1998), have examined the trends in sex ration and various sex differentials such as rural-urban age and caste of Seoni district (M.P). The spatial pattern has also been analyzed taking village as a unit. The sex ratio has recorded a continuous decreasing trend since the beginning of the present century. The rate of decline is relatively higher than that of Madhya Pradesh. The sex ratio is higher in rural areas in comparison to urban areas. The study shows that the sex-ratio varies by age due to varying incidence of mortality among the two sexes in the region.

11) Gathade, D.G. (1999) in his research paper entitled "Geographical analysis of rural population concentration in Maharashtra" has examined the distributional pattern of rural population in Maharashtra.

12) Chaven M.B. and Shoudane, M. (2000) have evaluated seasonal variation in birth rate in Chopda tahsil of Jalogaon district (M.S.)

13) Prasanthi, R. (2003) has analyzed demographic characteristics and socio-economic development in million cities of Indian. He has correlated the demographic characteristics of million cities with the development levels in India.

14) Ugade, V.R. (2005) has studied population trends in Marathwada in his Ph.D. thesis. His study is based on primary and secondary source of data. He studied the distribution, growth, fertility, mortality, literacy and age structure of the population of the Marathwada.

Tentative of Chapter Scheme:

Chapter I: Introduction

Chapter II: Physical setting and Socio-economic background of the Study Region

Chapter III: Distribution of Population

Chapter IV: Literacy, Sex ratio, Age and Occupational Structure of the Study Region

Chapter V: Concentration and Distributional Pattern of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Population

Chapter VI: Marital Status, Religion Composition and migration of the Study Region

Chapter **VII**: Conclusions, Problems and Suggestions

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15) Dr. Parchane S.R. (2016): "A Study of Population Characteristics in Ahamadnagar District".

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